

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed March 8, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, Applicants submit the following remarks. Applicants pray that, after consideration of these remarks, a favorable decision will be provided regarding the claims. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-9, 12, 14-18, 21, 23-30, 32-36, and 38-42 were pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 26-30 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 5, 7-9, 12, 14-18, 21, 23-25, 32-36, and 38-42 are now pending in this Application.

Allowed Claims

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 12, 15-18, 21, 23-25, and 32-36, have been allowed.

Objections

Claim 5 was objected to as it appears to be dependent upon claim 41, wherein the strikethrough for the numeral 4 is not visible. As requested by the Examiner, claim 5 has been amended to indicate that the claim is dependent upon claim 1 using brackets and underlines. Claim 14 was objected to as depending on claim 1, it has been amended to properly depend from claim 8. Accordingly, the objections of claims 5 and 14 are believed to have been overcome.

Rejections under §112

Claims 7, 14 and 38-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 7 has been amended to remove the indefiniteness cited by the Examiner. Claim 14 has previously had the indefiniteness cited by the Examiner removed (see prior amendment). Claim 38 has been amended to correct the instance of improper antecedent basis cited by the Examiner. Claims 39-42 depend from claim 38. In view of the above, the rejection of claims 7, 14,

and 38-42 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is believed to have been overcome.

Rejections under §102 and §103

Claims 26-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over applicants admitted prior art and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,854,889 to Liese et al. Claims 26-30 are herein canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejection to claims 26-30 is believed to have been rendered moot.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Examiners rejections and objections are believed to have been overcome placing claims 1, 2, 5, 7-9, 12, 14-18, 21, 23-25, 32-36 and 38-42 in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Response, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicant's Representative at the number below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0901.

-18-

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 366-9600, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,

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